

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

ACTION COPY

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Action

Control:
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JUNE 9, 1959
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Info

FROM: BERLIN

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1080, JUNE 9, 4 PM

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 1080, PRIORITY BONN 964, GENEVA PRIORITY 91
REPEATED INFORMATION MOSCOW 313, LONDON 205, PARIS 250.

SENT POLAD USAREUR UNNUMBERED BY OTHER MEANS.

GENEVA FOR HILLENBRAND.

IN CONVERSATION LATE LAST NIGHT BRANDT TOLD ME THAT
POSSIBILITY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS MAY NOT RPT NOT BE
HELD IN BERLIN STILL WEIGHED HEAVILY ON HIS MIND.
GERSTENMAIER HAS REQUESTED BRANDT SEE HIM BONN TODAY.
IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION SATURDAY GERSTENMAIER TOLD BRANDT
HIS "INTENTIONS" RE HOLDING FED ASSEMBLY SESSION IN BERLIN
UNCHANGED BUT EXPRESSED DOUBTS WHETHER HE ABLE CARRY THROUGH.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RECEIVED BY BRANDT THROUGH UNNAMED
INTERMEDIARY WAS THAT GERSTENMAIER HAD RECEIVED REPORT OF
FED INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (BUNDESNACHRICHTENDIENST) ACCORDING
WHICH ZONAL AUTHORITIES PLANNING MEASURES AGAINST WEST
BERLIN JULY 1 OR 2 IF FED ASSEMBLY CONVOKED HERE. THIS
INFO TRANSMITTED TO GERSTENMAIER BEFORE EISLER UTTERED
HIS THREATS (BERLIN'S 1060 DEPT, 946 BONN, 76 GENEVA).

BRANDT BELIEVES INTELLIGENCE REPORT BEING USED PUT PRESSURE
ON GERSTENMAIER WITH IMPLICATION HE WOULD BE ACTING
IRRESPONSIBLY IF FED ASSEMBLY CONVOKED IN BERLIN AND
WARNING GIVEN PRIME MINISTER BRANDT CONVINCED IT WOULD BE
GREAT MISTAKE TO WINCE BEFORE A BLOW IS STRUCK. HE BELIEVES
FURTHERMORE THAT 1) IT UNCERTAIN WHETHER SOVS WOULD PERMIT
EAST GERMANS TO GO SO FAR; 2) IF INTERFERENCE WITH
TRAFFIC WERE TO TAKE PLACE WEST GERMANS WOULD HAVE GOOD
OPPORTUNITY

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-2- 1080, JUNE 9, 4 PM, FROM BERLIN

OPPORTUNITY PUBLICIZE THEIR CASE AND GERSTENMAIER COULD CONVOKE FED ASSEMBLY SOMEWHERE ELSE SAYING COMMUNISTS INTERFERING WITH LEGITIMATE TRAVEL DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES.

BRANDT FURTHER SAID HE HAD ADDRESSED TELEGRAM TO GERSTENMAIER MONDAY MORNING SAYING THAT IF FREELY ELECTED GERMAN REPRESENTATIVES "TURN YELLOW" IN FACE OF EAST GERMAN THREAT THEN THEY ARE ON SAME LEVEL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF LADIES GARMENT INDUSTRY WHO LEFT BERLIN MAY 26 AND RETURNED MAY 28. BRANDT INSTRUCTED SENATOR FED AFFAIRS KLEIN TO TELL GERSTENMAIER HE WOULD NOT COME TO SEE HIM IF HE HAD ALREADY MADE UP HIS MIND NOT TO HOLD MEETING IN BERLIN. GERSTENMAIER'S REPLY WAS HIS MIND NOT YET MADE UP. WHEN HE SEES HIM TODAY, BRANDT SAID, HE WOULD PREVAIL UPON HIM TO DEFER HIS DECISION RE CONVOCAION UNTIL SATURDAY TO AWAIT OUTCOME BRANDT'S GENEVA DISCUSSIONS WITH FONMINS.

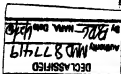
BRANDT EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS RE HANDLING THIS MATTER BY VON BRENTANO WHOM HE SAID HE OTHERWISE LIKES AND ADMIRES. ON MAY 30 BRENTANO TOLD KLEIN MATTER HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN DISCUSSED AT GENEVA BUT GREWE JUNE 4 TOLD GERMAN JOURNALISTS DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT HAD BEEN CARRIED ON WITH ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES FOR PAST 10 DAYS.

BRANDT EXPRESSED FEAR THAT IF WEST GERMANS YIELD THIS MATTER IN FACE FEW THREATENING UTTERANCES AND REPORTS EAST GERMANS MIGHT HAVE PURPOSELY LEAKED TO FED INTELLIGENCE, THEN SOV ZONE AUTHORITIES WILL KNOW IN FUTURE HOW EASY IT IS TO INTIMIDATE BONN. POLICY OF THREATS AND PRESSURES WOULD CONTINUE AND MAY GET STRONGER SOV BACKING THAN HERETOFORE. BRANDT EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT ONLY POLICY OF DISREGARD EAST GERMAN THREATS WOULD PERSUADE SOVS "TO HOLD BACK ULBRICHT CLIQUE."

BRANDT SAID

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BRANDT SAID MOVING ELECTIONS FROM BERLIN WOULD NOT IMMEDIATELY CAUSE SEVERE SHOCK AMONG GENERAL BERLIN PUBLIC BECAUSE MANY SEGMENTS OF POPULATION UNAWARE OF PRINCIPLES INVOLVED. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, IN LONG RUN DO PERNICIOUS DAMAGE BECAUSE IT WOULD CONVINCE PEOPLE THAT SLOW PROCESS OF SERVERING BERLIN FROM FEDREP HAD BEGUN. HE SAID HE HAD JUST COME FROM SPD EXECUTIVE MEETING IN WHICH ALL PRESENT HAD AGREED ON THIS POINT, ESPECIALLY GRAVE DANGER RE YIELDING ON WHAT ARE ONLY SURMISALS OF POSSIBLE SOV OR EAST GERMAN MOVES.

ON SOCIAL OCCASION FRIDAY FED REPRESENTATIVE VOCKEL, WHO ENJOYS ADENAUER'S FULL CONFIDENCE AND IS TRUSTED CDU MEMBER, TOLD MISSION OFFICER HE UNABLE UNDERSTAND EFFORTS PERSUADE GERSTENMAIER HOLD PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ELSEWHERE. VOCKEL CITED MORE OR LESS SAME REASONS AS BRANDT SAYING PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY FED REPRESENTATIVES COULD NOT BE CALLED PROVOCATORY BY ANY STRETCH OF IMAGINATION AND THAT YIELDING ON THIS POINT WOULD BE FATAL AFTER NUMEROUS ANNOUNCEMENTS RE BERLIN MEETING HAD BEEN MADE. HE FEELS THAT WITHOUT BONN CONTROVERSY COMMUNISTS WOULD HAVE NEVER SEIZED ON THIS ISSUE.

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